

DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE

TEXT SUMMARY

This week we continue our series on the Trinity with "God Became Man," taken from Hebrews 2:14-18. The writer of this letter to first-century Jewish believers wanted to help his readers understand that in Christ we have an advocate who fully identifies with our struggles.

INTRODUCTION (observation):

- To get an overall sense of the writer's meaning, identify all the things that the text says the Son has done, will do, and does (e.g., "partook of the same things... destroy the one who has the power of death... deliver all those who... ").
- 2. Notice the various ways the writers refers to humans (e.g., v. 15 "those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery," see also v. 16, v. 17, v. 18).
- 3. Verse 17 begins with one connective device, "Therefore" and includes another connective device, "so that."
 - a. Explain the "Therefore," how v. 17 builds on v. 16.
 - Explain the "so that," how the Son's becoming like us made it possible for him to be a merciful and faithful high priest.

DISCUSSION (interpretation):

- 1. Verse 16 is intriguing for two reasons.
 - Why does the writer make the point that it was not angels but humans whom Christ helps?
 - Why does the writer call us "the sons of Abraham"? (see Gal. 3:7-9)
- 2. How does Christ's suffering when tempted (v. 18) qualify him to help those who are being tempted?

SO WHAT? (application): Here we move toward firstperson pronouns as we begin to consider how we must respond to what God has said in His Word. 1. Consecutive verses speak of the power of death, a dreadful power that we have known all too well over the past several months. We'll consider the two verses in reverse order: • The writer describes us as "those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death" (v. 15). How does the "fear of death" subject us to "lifelong slavery"? • There is a glorious irony in v. 14: "so that through his death he might destroy the one holding the power of death." • What comfort is there for the believer in knowing that Christ knows what it is to experience death? • How did the death of Christ "destroy the one holding the power of death"? 2. The last two verses in the text (v. 17-18) speak of the Son's becoming like us and so representing us as our high priest. • What is there in your daily experience that Christ has not experienced as a man in first century Palestine? • How would our understanding of Christ's work on our behalf be different if he had not been "made like his brothers in all respects"? • The next time you are tempted to despair or lust or resentment, how can you capitalize on the fact that Jesus "has suffered when

tempted"?